

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-06 ARA-06 CIAE-00

DODE-00 EA-06 EUR-12 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-02

NASA-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01

OES-03 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /116 W

----- 052043

R 091059Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2539

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, CE

SUBJ: SRI LANKA POSITION ON BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

REF: STATE 040761

1. DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBOFF ON MARCH 20 AND APRIL 8 AT MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MDFA), DEPUTY DIRECTOR UN AND CONFERENCE DIVISION KATHIRAMALAINATHAN MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS CONCERNING BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION:

2. GSL HAS NO IMMEDIATE PLANS TO RATIFY CONVENTION AND IS STILL IN PROCESS PREPARING POSITION PAPER FOR CABINET CONSIDERATION. RESERVATIONS EXIST WITHIN MDFA BECAUSE OF ABSENCE OF PROVISIONS FOR VERIFICATION AND PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF CONVENTION AND, TO LESSER DEGREE, BECAUSE SMALL NATIONS HAD LITTLE INFLUENCE ON TERMS OF CONVENTION DRAFTED BY "GREAT POWERS". PREOCCUPATION WITH OTHER ISSUES MAKES RATIFICATION OF MARGINAL PRIORITY TO GSL. POSITION OF USG IN FAVOR OF WIDEST POSSIBLE RATIFICATION CONVEYED TO SENIOR LEVELS OF GSL. SOVIET EMBASSY HAS ALSO APPROACHED MDFA TO ENCOURAGE RATIFICATION.

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3. COMMENT: LIKE GSL POSITION ON NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, GSL SEEKS TO VIEW ITS RELATIONS WITH CERTAIN OTHER COUNTRIES AS OF GREATER IMPORTANCE THAN RATIFICATION OF CONVENTION. THERE WAS SUGGESTION IN KATHIRAMALAINATHAN'S REMARKS THAT, WHERE POSSIBLE, GSL WOULD PREFER TO FOLLOW PRC LEAD IN RESPECT TO BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION AND SOME OTHER MAJOR ISSUES OF GLOBAL SCOPE.

VAN HOLLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY RATIFICATION, BIOLOGICAL WARFARE WEAPONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1975
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: woolfhd
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975COLOMB01125
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750123-0567
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750468/aaaacknx.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 040761
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolfhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2003 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <05 DEC 2003 by woolfhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SRI LANKA POSITION ON BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
TAGS: PARM, PFOR, CE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006